

14. VC 3855 Flora

REPORT ON PROPOSED SUBDIVISION 94/112 - GLENVALE ROAD AREA

Eva Buchanan

Background information:

1. Eva has been a resident of Ringwood for 34 years.
2. Now retired, Eva taught at Maroondah Secondary College for 19 years. The subjects she taught included biology and environmental science.
3. For a number of years Eva was a member of Ringwood Council's Environmental and Dandenong Creek Committees.
4. As a member of the Society for Growing Australian Plants (Maroondah Group), Eva is one of the group of members who surveyed and listed the indigenous flora in the various reserves for Ringwood Council (Parks and Gardens).
5. Eva contributed to the book "Flora of Melbourne" which has become the definitive reference source for any person seeking accurate information on the indigenous plants of the greater Melbourne area.
6. Eva is also a member of the Bird Observers Club.

IMPORTANCE OF LOT 5 GLENVALE ROAD/239 OBAN ROAD AREA

- * Very good example of **dry sclerophyll forest**, mainly weed free, on the higher areas adjacent to Glenvale Road, with good **valley sclerophyll forest** in the lower parts (close to Melbourne Water and Ringwood Council reserves).
- * Includes **plants of regional and local significance** - reference: "Rare and threatened plants in Victoria" (Gullan) - see attached sheet. In particular, *Hibbertia obtusifolia* - the Showy Guinea-flower - is of not only local, but of regional significance in that this is one of only six records of this species in the Melbourne region. (Ref.: "Flora of Melbourne") Also significant are some of the orchids - e.g. the Purplish Beard Orchid - *Calochilus robertsonii*.
- * There are **over 60 different species** of plants, of which **14 (maybe more) come under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988**. There is only one plant of Cranberry Heath (found on proposed block 3).

CONSERVATION VALUE OF THE AREA

- * **Biodiversity of plant species.** The significance of biological diversity in urban and semi-urban areas is recognised in a draft national conservation strategy which is being developed jointly by Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments. For information on the importance of biodiversity, refer to the attached pages from the CSIRO report. In this area there are at least 3 or 4 variations of *Correa reflexa* species, as well as a semi-weeping form of the Red Stringybark eucalypt.
- * **Significance of the area for fauna.** The significance of the area for native birds and animals is that it is part of a corridor providing "safe areas" for them to live and move through. Attached is a list of more than 70 bird species observed in the Glenvale Road/Kubis Drive area. Echidnas and breeding koalas have also been seen in this area. Hollow trees, logs, etc, are very important for breeding, refuges, etc.

USES OF THE AREA

- * Passive recreation - e.g. walking
- * Educational purposes - e.g. school studies, scouting (environment badge), guiding, etc.
- * Corridors for flora and fauna - Council-owned land, with good roadside flora verges, (with fewer driveways onto Glenvale Road) is vital to the continuity of corridors for flora and fauna.

SUMMARY

This site warrants very special attention. Rare and endangered flora species will be lost if this development continues as proposed.

For Ringwood Council, this is one of the last opportunities to preserve valuable flora and fauna areas for future generations. Corridors are essential for flora and fauna.

Dry sclerophyll forest is becoming rare in Melbourne. Many species are found only in these forests in Eastern Melbourne suburbs and are thus even rarer and endangered.

A large portion of this land should be rezoned and retained as Public Open Space (bushland reserve), especially the western and southern areas of land comprising the dry sclerophyll forest adjacent to Glenvale Road, the small well vegetated gully and the spur adjacent to the Kubis Drive Bushland reserve which is owned by Council.

Eva Buchanan
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